

February 5, 2002

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JUL 23 2002

Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Chairman Powell:

As the former chief of staff to Colorado Governor Roy Romer, and as someone who for more than 20 years has supported and worked for open competition in the telecommunications industry, I am writing to urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to support the opening of Colorado's market.

I know that this is a controversial and complicated issue. But I also know that the benefits accrued to consumers, businesses and the overall economic health of our country by deregulation of the long distance and other telecommunications markets are beyond challenge. People have more choice, at less cost. Companies have to actively participate in the marketplace without the protections of government-sanctioned monopolies.

Colorado has long been a telecommunications pioneer, and opening up markets here will help us keep that position. Our state is ready – has been for a long time – and I urge the commission's support.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James F. Carpenter
Director of Public Affairs
National Jewish Medical and Research Center